

City of San Diego
Clean Syringe Exchange Program Facilitation Committee
March 4, 2004

12:00 p.m.
Civic Center Plaza
1200 Third Avenue, 9th Floor Conference Room
San Diego, CA

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the chair at approximately 12:10 p.m.

Members Present:

Cynthia Burke
Jim Dunford
Kathy Evans-Calderwood
Debra Fischle-Faulk
Mike Franz
Robert Lewis, Alternate for Fran Butler-Cohen
Linda Lloyd
Michael Powers
Lt. Cesar Solis

Staff Present:

Lisa Foster
Staajabu Heshimu

Guests Present:

Martin Chevalier
Donna Dow
Lora Folsom
Adrian Kwiatkowski
Monica Palaez
Michael Sprague
Jim Varnadore

2. Self-Introductions

Dr. Dunford asked for self-introductions of those present.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of February 5, 2004

The minutes were approved with two corrections: (1) in the City Manager's Status Report 4.d., paragraph 3, line 5, delete the word "private", and in the Community Impact Subcommittee – Status Reports 5.a., line 4, the sentence should read "Ms. Evans-Calderwood said she has received written comments dated December 5, 2003 from a graduate Communications student on the wording of the survey which she would like to pass on to the Committee." The corrected minutes will be posted on the City website.

4. Status Reports

a. Family Health Centers of San Diego –Bob Lewis

Mr. Lewis distributed the latest utilization statistics, pointing out that there were no exchange services offered the week of March 1 due to the City Council's legislative recess. He said the North Park exchange received the highest number of new clients ever (=12) during this reporting period.

b. San Diego Police Department – Lt. Cesar Solis

Lt. Cesar Solis reported that SDPD continues to monitor activity at the fish market near the North Park exchange site; although the area is known for suspicious activity, they haven't found anything they could cite on.

c. San Diego Association of Governments – Dr. Cynthia Burke

Dr. Burke reported that SANDAG has stopped data collection activities and is now preparing to submit their final evaluation report by the May 15 deadline. Dr. Dunford asked about the role of Johns Hopkins and whether they would need to approve anything before the final report can be submitted to the City Council. Dr. Lloyd responded that they did not, that Johns Hopkins served only as a consultant to SANDAG.

c. City Manager's Office

Ms. Heshimu reported that the continuation of the health emergency declaration related to the Hepatitis C/HIV/AIDS epidemic is on the City Council agenda for March 8 at 2:00 p.m. The Facilitation Committee's recommendation that the Council continue the declaration while the final report and recommendations are being prepared was sent to the Mayor and Council via Memorandum last week. It is not known whether the item will be pulled from the Consent Agenda. In response to questions about the timing of the presentations to Council and whether the report/recommendations would need to be presented first to either the

Council Neighborhood Services and Public Safety or Land Use and Housing Committee, Ms. Heshimu agreed to consult with the Mayor's staff and Committee staffs as appropriate.

d. City Attorney's Office – Lisa Foster

Deputy City Attorney Lisa Foster reported she has completed two forms of the draft ordinance, one that assumes the City Council will have the authority to approve future syringe exchange sites and one that gives that authority to the City Manager. These will be discussed in more detail at today's subcommittee meeting following the Facilitation Committee meeting. Dr. Dunford thanked Ms. Foster for her work on the ordinance stating that there was no precedence for her to follow. In response to a question about the ordinance going to Council, Ms. Foster said that the ordinance must be approved by the Council but she suggested that the Committee present only one version.

5. Community Impact Subcommittee – Status Reports

- a. North Park Survey – Mr. Lewis' memorandum summarizing the status of the survey is attached to these minutes.
- b. East Village Focus Group – Ms. Heshimu said that she had not yet completed the proposed draft letter/questionnaire to be sent to businesses and community groups in the downtown area. She will email the draft for Facilitation Committee input prior to the next meeting.

6. Roundtable/Public Comment

Jim Varnadore commented that we will want to have a "quality" analysis even if the proposed timelines are not met. Debra Fischle-Faulk said we need to have "all" the information Council will want when we make the presentation.

Kathy Evans-Calderwood informed that someone who attended the February 5 Facilitation Committee meeting called her boss about something she said at the meeting. She was called in to explain what happened at the meeting and what she actually said. She explained that although she works for SSRL, she is not doing anything to manipulate or input the North Park survey design and that, per his request, Dr. Coe is to be the contact person on this project, not her. She also said that there was a comment at the last meeting that she shouldn't serve on the Facilitation Committee because she is "for" the Clean Syringe Exchange Program.

She said she is not “for” the program, rather, she is a scientist who is waiting for the data to come in (before making up her mind). Finally, Ms. Evans-Calderwood informed the Committee that at the March 1 meeting of the City Heights Area Planning Committee, she was not re-elected to the board so she doesn’t know how much longer she will serve on the Facilitation Committee. Mr. Varnadore says he will support keeping Ms. Evans-Calderwood on the Facilitation Committee when that issue comes up at the CHAPC.

Michael Sprague commented that volunteers should be protected when they serve the City and that the Facilitation Committee should do whatever it can to ensure that protection. In response to probing by Dr. Dunford, Mr. Sprague suggested the Committee could write a letter (on behalf of Ms. Evans-Calderwood). Dr. Dunford assured the members of the Committee as well as the community members that continue to attend the meetings that he is grateful for their participation; he also acknowledged that this has not been as easy Committee on which to serve.

Donna Dow responded to a comment made by Dr. Harrison at the last Facilitation Committee meeting. She said it is not true that only a few people are against the syringe exchange program in North Park, that “a whole lot” of people are against it and cited as evidence that the make-up of the Greater North Park Planning Committee was changed because of it.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting is April 1, 2004

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:10 p.m.